



# SFM Report

*August 2006*

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## **Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers**

**Ruben Grijalva, Director California Department of Forestry and Fire  
Protection/ State Fire Marshal**  
**Kate Dargan, Assistant State Fire Marshal**



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**Assistant State Fire Marshal**

A few months have passed since I have seen most of you, mainly due to the restructuring of the SFM Office and the I-Code Adoption project. Both of those goals are consuming the majority of my time this summer.

SFM “Re-org” – Internal to CDF and OSFM is a discussion on how best to restructure ourselves to become more efficient and better positioned to serve all of California’s fire prevention needs, as well as to fully integrate the OSFM with CDF. Under Chief Grijalva, a re-org plan is being implemented that consolidates all of the traditional OSFM functions; CDF Law Enforcement, the Arson-Bomb Investigations Unit, Wildland Fire Planning and Engineering, and eventually

CDF/SFM Data Analysis, Technology and Planning under the State Fire Marshal (SFM). Additional staff is moving over from other sections of CDF to build these programs and an additional Chief has been selected. Chief Dave Hillman will head up the Law Enforcement/Arson and Bomb Investigations and Wildland Engineering functions and will work alongside the Assistant SFM as one of three executive level chiefs that report to the SFM. Internal work is still underway; I expect a full public roll-out this fall sometime. Part of our goal with this move is to encourage all of the CDF prevention folks to get involved with Fire Prevention Officer's since you all are such a valuable resource group to the prevention world!

I-Code Adoption – What a time! To each and every one of you that have contributed to this effort – THANK YOU! The volume of material, the number of hours, the participation, travel, and research done by various committee and work group members are resulting in a developing code that will be available in 2008. There is some controversy surrounding the SFM amendment package; some believe we have been overly conservative in amending the model code for California. The OSFM staff has worked very hard these past several months to have an inclusive, thoughtful, participative process, and we believe we have crafted a package that meets the original goals of an “equivalent level of fire and life safety” as we currently practice. Some of the most controversial items in our package relate to Height and Area changes and the inclusion of some passive, fire resistive-oriented features to allow for some redundancy should sprinkler systems not operate as planned. The OSFM will be supporting these changes at the national ICC code hearings this fall, and hope that many of you can attend to support the effort.

I will keep you updated on our progress, as we will need all the fire service support possible when the adoption by the Building Standards Commission comes in late December 2006 - early January, 2007.

I plan to attend each of the North and South meetings in August and September to give you a direct report and answer questions – Meanwhile please take a moment to give a pat on the back to your draft horse heroes - Laura Blaul, Christina Jamison, Rick Terry, Ron Jackson, Dave Schoonover, Jim Dias, Kevin Reinertson, Steve Hart, Tom Harvey, Joe Perry, James Parsegian, Glenn Tong, John Guhl, and Ellie Shelton. They are all working so hard to represent you and fire safety in Sacramento.

# **Fire and Life Safety**

## **Hiring List Is Complete**

The OSFM has completed interviewing applicants for the position of Deputy State Fire Marshal. The 18 successful candidates will now be considered for future positions within the department.

## **Hydrogen Highway**

The State Fire Marshal's Hydrogen Highway Advisory Committee meets this month to discuss issues relating to implementing the Governor's Hydrogen Highway plan. These issues include development of alternate fuel vehicle training for the fire service as well as standardized code development.



## **Rick Arciniega Retiring**

Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Rick Arciniega has announced his retirement. His last day on the job is August 18, 2006. A retirement party is planned for October, more information on that in a later edition. Rick says he will be moving to South Carolina where his wife Pamela grew up. They have a beach house and he plans to surf in the morning and fish in the afternoon. And he will supplement his income with hurricane watch. However you spend your time Rick, we wish you happiness in your new life. And thank you for your years of dedication and hard work for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

# State Fire Training

Assistant State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan is spearheading a major overhaul of State Fire Training (SFT). The OSFM held a workshop in July in Riverside to involve stakeholders in planning and updating the fire training of the future. Approximately 40 participants broke into working groups and prioritized their concerns about the current program, strategized about what needs to be done and contributed to the strategic plan that is currently being developed by retired CDF Unit Chief Bill Sager. The group came away with four priorities:

- 1) Quality assurance
- 2) Restore credibility
- 3) Emphasize accountability
- 4) Coordinate with national fire training models which include college credits

Updates will be provided as the project moves forward.

Additionally, if you are interested in improving the quality of state fire training and are a fire official, a training officer, a registered SFT instructor, or a member of the community college system, you may want to apply for a position on one of the two PACE II task groups. During a two-year term, members will be selecting the state fire training instructors of the future. Two committees of 8 members each will be formed; one in the north state and one in the south. The commitment is for two meetings per year to review instructor applications, resumes, correspondence and other communications relative to teaching firefighters the skills they need. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Margullis as soon as possible at (916) 445-8154 or [sandy.margullis@fire.ca.gov](mailto:sandy.margullis@fire.ca.gov)

## Code Development and Analysis

Progress is well underway for the States' adoption of the 2006 International Building and Fire Code, 2006 Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Code and 2005 National Electrical Code. To quote Assistant State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan "A mountain of material has passed through the Office of the State Fire Marshal since last October." There are 995 amendments to the model code, 650 of them specific to fire, special occupancy and height and area.

The first step in the building standards rulemaking cycle has started with the Building Standards Commission (BSC) Code Advisory Committee (CAC) hearings. The CAC hearings began on June 30 with our Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical code submittals. The SFM's Building and Fire codes submittals were heard by the CAC on July 24, 25 and 26 and August 7 and 8. The 45 day public comment period for the Plumbing Mechanical and Electrical code has begun and the Building and Fire code comment period is scheduled to start September 1, 2006.

Title 19 rulemaking packages for the adoption of NFPA 25 as well as other non-substantive changes to Title 19 have been submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. Several other rulemaking packages amending Title 19 are also in the process.

Supplements to the California Building and Fire Code relating to Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards are currently being published. These supplements include Phase II of the building standards, which have an effective date of January 1, 2008.

Additional supplements to the California Building and Fire Code resulting from the 2004 annual rulemaking cycle are also being published and should be arriving soon. These supplements update the referenced standards which include the adoption of the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 and 72.

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